

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A conveyor pan for face conveyors in underground mining systems, in particular coal minings systems, with outward race and return race to guide a scraper chain, between which a conveyor bottom is disposed, with on the goaf side and on the wall side securing means located at the conveyor pan ends for a connecting component to link adjacent conveyor pans together, preferably with guide means for a mining machine which may be moved along the wall and with a static loading ramp connected to the conveyor pan on the wall side and extending from the floor to the level of the outward race, by means of which muck may be loaded into the outward race as the face conveyor is advanced, ~~characterized in that the~~ said loading ramp ~~consists of comprising~~ a curved or in-particular angled guide plate ~~[[(50)]]~~, ~~[[the]] a~~ lower section ~~[[(51)]]~~ of which is steeper relative to ~~[[the]] an associated~~ floor ~~[[(11)]]~~ or to the conveyor bottom ~~[[(9)]]~~ than ~~[[its]] an~~ upper section ~~[[(52)]]~~ thereof.

2. (Currently Amended) The conveyor pan as ~~recited in~~ of Claim 1, ~~characterized in that the~~ wherein an apex line ~~[[(53)]]~~ of the ~~curve or bend of~~ the guide plate ~~[[(50)]]~~ is disposed at the level of the conveyor bottom (9), ~~preferably between the middle and the underside of the conveyor bottom (9).~~

3. (Currently Amended) The conveyor pan as ~~recited in~~ of Claim 1 ~~or 2,~~ ~~characterized in that the~~ wherein an apex line ~~[[(53)]]~~ of the ~~curve or bend of~~ the guide plate ~~[[(50)]]~~ is located below ~~[[the]] an~~ articulation point of ~~[[the]] an~~ advancing system or pusher beams disposed on the goaf side for moving the face conveyor.

4. (Currently Amended) The conveyor pan as ~~recited in one of~~ Claim~~[[s]]~~ 1 to 3, ~~characterized in that~~ , wherein the lower section ~~[[(51)]]~~ and the upper section ~~[[(52)]]~~ of said angled guide plate ~~[[(50)]]~~ are essentially generally flat and include an angle ~~[[(α)]]~~ of approximately 150°-170°, ~~preferably approximately 160° ± 4°.~~

5. (Currently Amended) The conveyor pan as recited in one of Claim[[s]] 1 to 4, ~~characterized in that~~ , wherein the lower section [[[51]]] is inclined relative to the conveyor bottom [[[9]]] by an angle [[[β]]] of approximately 65°-85°, ~~preferably 78° ± 4°~~, and the upper section [[[52]]] is inclined relative to the conveyor bottom [[[9]]] by an angle [[[γ]]] of approximately 45°-65°, ~~preferably 55° ± 4°~~.

6. (Currently Amended) The conveyor pan as recited in one of Claim[[s]] 1 to 5, ~~characterized in that~~ , wherein the guide plate [[[50]]] is equipped at [[the]] conveyor pan ends (19, 20) with recesses (54, 55), ~~the size of which is matched sized to~~ [[the]] match dimensions of at least one of the securing means and[[/or]] the conveyor pan-connecting component.

7. (Currently Amended) The conveyor pan as recited in one of Claim[[s]] 1 to 6, ~~characterized in that~~ , wherein the securing means ~~consist of~~ includes toggle bolt sockets (21, 22) and the conveyor pan-connecting components ~~consist of~~ includes toggle bolts, the toggle heads ~~of which can be engaged~~ are engageable in the toggle bolt sockets (21, 22).

8. (Currently Amended) The conveyor pan as recited in one of Claim[[s]] 1 to 7, ~~characterized in that~~ , wherein the lower section [[[51]]] of the guide plate [[[50]]] forms a bar [[[60]]] at [[the]] a lower edge thereof, which extends as far as pan ends of the conveyor pan ends (19, 20).

9. (Currently Amended) The conveyor pan as recited in one of Claim[[s]] 6 to 8, ~~characterized in that~~ the , wherein a limiting wall (54', 55') of one of the recesses (54, 55) is equipped with includes a detent (62, 63) parallel to pan ends of the conveyor pan ends (19, 20).

10. (Currently Amended) The conveyor pan as recited in one of Claim[[s]] 1 to 9, ~~characterized in that~~ , wherein the guide plate [[[50]]] is welded to the conveyor pan [[[10]]].

11. (Currently Amended) The conveyor pan as recited in one of Claim[[s]] 1 to 10, ~~characterized in that~~ , wherein the lower section [[[51]]] of the guide plate (50), in

~~particular the bar (60) at its lower edge, is welded to a sliding bar [(26)] on the wall side or to a machinery guide for the mining machine.~~

12. (Currently Amended) The conveyor pan ~~as recited in one of Claim[s] 1 to 11, characterized in that~~ , wherein the upper section [(52)] of the guide plate [(50)] is welded to ~~[(the)]~~ an underside or front face [(29)] of ~~[(the)]~~ a horizontal web [(17)] of an approximately T-shaped or L-shaped ~~and in particular~~ rolled steel side section [(3)].

13. (Currently Amended) The conveyor pan ~~as recited in one of Claim[s] 1 to 11, characterized in that~~ , wherein the conveyor pan features includes a removable trough as the outward race and the upper section of the guide plate ~~[(is)]~~ are welded to the frame holding the removable trough.

14. (Currently Amended) The conveyor pan ~~as recited in one of Claim[s] 1 to 13, characterized in that~~ , wherein in ~~[(the)]~~ a center area of the guide plate (50), and preferably ~~in the middle,~~ a hole for a lifting hook [(61)] is ~~provided~~ defined.

15. (Currently Amended) The conveyor pan ~~as recited in one of Claim[s] 1 to 14, characterized in that~~ , wherein at least two support plates (30, 32) are disposed between the guide plate [(50)] and at least one of the side wall on the wall side and/or, the side sections of the outward race, and~~[(/or)]~~ the return race.

16. (Currently Amended) The conveyor pan ~~as recited in~~ of Claim 15, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the guide plate [(50)] has vertical slots (58, 59) at the level of the support plates (30, 32).

17. (Currently Amended) The conveyor pan ~~as recited in one of Claim[s] 1 to 16, characterized in that~~ , wherein guide means for a cutting mining machine, ~~in particular a drum cutter loader,~~ are ~~provided~~ included with the horizontal web [(17)] of the outward race [(1)]'s side section [(3)] on the wall side ~~preferably forming the wall-side guide for the drum cutter loader.~~

18. (New) A loading ramp for a conveyor pan of an underground mining face conveyor, said loading ramp comprising:

a guide plate having a lower section and an upper section formed integrally therewith, said lower section angled steeper than said upper section relative to one of a bottom of an associated convey pan and an associated support surface.

19. (New) The loading ramp of claim 18 wherein an apex between said lower section and said upper section is positioned at approximately the same height as said bottom of said associated conveyor pan.

20. (New) A conveyor pan for a face conveyor used in underground mining systems, said conveyor pan comprising:

a conveyor bottom disposed between an outward race and a return race for guiding a scraper chain;

a securing means disposed on opposed ends of said conveyor bottom for engagement with an associated connecting component for linking adjacent conveyor pans together; and

a loading ramp connected to said conveyor bottom on a wall side thereof for loading much into said outward race, said loading ramp extending from an underlying support surface to said outward race and including:

a curved or angled guide plate having a lower section and an upper section, said lower section positioned at a greater angle relative to said support surface than said upper section.